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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 23 September 2005, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Wali ..... (Nigeria)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

Statement by the Chairman

1. **The Chairman** said that meetings would begin punctually at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. If a speaker was absent, his or her delegation would automatically be placed last on the list of speakers. During the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly, the Committee had used 72 per cent of its allocated conference resources and had lost 23.1 hours owing to late starting and early adjournment of meetings. He hoped that the Committee would be able to improve on those statistics at the current session.

2. He proposed that speakers should be limited to 10 minutes for the general debate and 7 minutes for statements made under specific agenda items. Longer statements should, if possible, be distributed in advance. Introductions by members of the Secretariat and statements made by representatives of agencies, funds and programmes should also be limited to 10 minutes; they shared focus on highlights and priorities and should also, if possible, be distributed in advance.

3. The programme of work (A/C.2/60/L.1) was largely based on the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 57/270 B and 58/316 and decision 58/553 as well as the recommendations of the bureaux of the Committee at the fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions of the General Assembly. He drew attention to a letter from the President of the General Assembly on the allocation of agenda items to the Committee (A/C.2/60/1).

4. He wished to recall several changes in working methods adopted by the Committee. Resolutions and decisions under the various agenda items would be negotiated and adopted by the Committee throughout rather than at the end of the session, and the Committee would consequently be holding informal consultations early in the session. Delegations should therefore make every effort to meet the deadlines for the appointment of facilitators and for submission of draft proposals. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/227, resolutions should be concise and action-oriented. Furthermore, decisions, rather than resolutions, should be used as much as possible for issues of a procedural nature. If the need arose, formal informals might be scheduled at the recommendation of the Bureau.

5. Lastly, in accordance with resolutions 54/236 and 57/282, the General Assembly had indicated that the Committee needed to include in its programme of work a review of the relevant recommendations put forth in the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/60/16), specifically the recommendations contained in chapter III, sections C.1 and C.2. As the Fifth Committee would be taking up those recommendations on 25 October, the Committee would need to send any relevant comments to the Fifth Committee prior to that date. He therefore proposed that the Committee should consider the matter on 19 October.

6. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the arrangements he had described were acceptable to the Committee.

7. *It was so decided.*

Organization of work (A/60/250 and A/C.2/60/L.1)

8. **The Chairman** drew attention to document A/C.2/60/L.1 and to the decisions taken by the General Assembly based on the recommendations contained in the first report of the General Committee (A/60/250) concerning the organization of work of the General Assembly and its Main Committees. The target date for the conclusion of the Committee's work was Tuesday, 6 December 2005.

9. **Mr. Kotis** (United States of America), referring to item 56 (d) listed in document A/C.2/60/L.1, said that during consideration at the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly of resolution 59/242 on preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets to the countries of origin, there had been a lack of consensus on the agenda item under which the issue should fall. There had been no agreement to place the issue under item 56, Globalization and interdependence; his delegation would have wished to have considered the allocation of the agenda item more fully.

10. **The Chairman** said that he would take up the issue with the Secretariat.

11. **Ms. Mills** (Jamaica), speaking also on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that her delegation fully supported the appeal to respect the deadlines set forth in the programme of work and, in so doing,

would be guided by the tradition of transparency and openness.

12. **Mr. Kariuki** (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that his delegation was fully committed to working within the recommended deadlines. He wished to know whether, as in the past, the Committee intended to have brief question-and-answer session after the introduction of reports.

13. **The Chairman** said that the Committee would continue its question-and-answer sessions. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to approve its programme of work as contained in document A/C.2/60/L.1.

14. *It was so decided.*

15. **Mr. Seth** (Secretary of the Committee) drew attention to guidelines on submission of draft proposals to the Secretariat, which had been circulated to the Committee. They were designed to ensure that the Secretariat would be able to process documentation submitted by delegations in a timely manner.

16. **Ms. Elisha** (Benin) said that it was unclear who had drafted the guidelines. Furthermore, her delegation was concerned about the provision that any draft proposals which were not in strict compliance with those guidelines would be returned. Her delegation was prepared to accept the guidelines as a means of facilitating the work of the Secretariat; but could not accept the text if it meant that draft proposals would be returned unless the guidelines were met.

17. **Mr. Seth** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the guidelines were meant to reduce the number of errors which crept into draft resolutions and decisions during revision. The possibility of error would be reduced by clearly showing how new drafts differed from earlier texts. The guidelines were put forward in the spirit of collaboration for the purpose of avoiding problems in editing and the introduction of unintended nuances in meaning and harmonizing the language versions of the new drafts.

The meeting rose at 11 a.m.